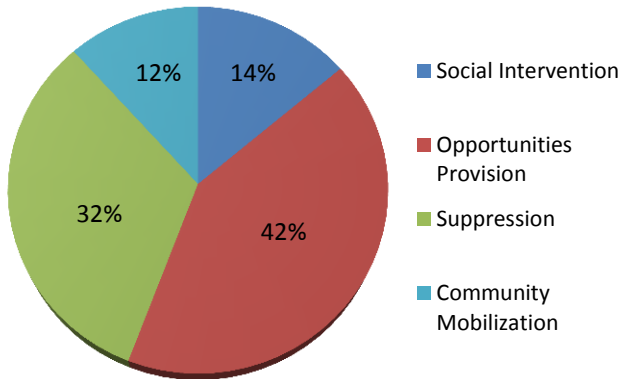


# Haverhill/Methuen Shannon CSI, 2015

**Funded Partners:** Haverhill Boys and Girls Club, Haverhill/Methuen Partnership, Haverhill Police Department, MAN Inc., Methuen Police Department, POSE, Inc. , Somebody Cares New England, Whittier Regional Vocational High School, YWCA of Haverhill

This initiative is funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research, Justice and Prevention Division, Daniel Bennett, Secretary

**Figure 1. Haverhill/Methuen Shannon CSI 2015 Funding Allocation: \$151,557**



## Highlights of Shannon Participants:

### Funded Population:

- 8 funded programs
- 2,191 youth served
  - 25 known to be gang involved

### Education/Employment:

- 18 had subsidized summer employment
- 1,571 promoted a grade in school

### Law Enforcement/Courts and Prosecution:

- 137 hotspot patrols completed
- 20 law enforcement supported home visits

### Personal Development:

- 1,711 participated in youth development programs
- 172 engaged in volunteer work or community service

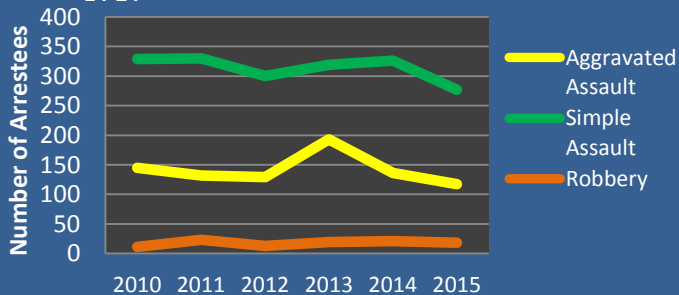
### Community Mobilization

- 9 community meetings held

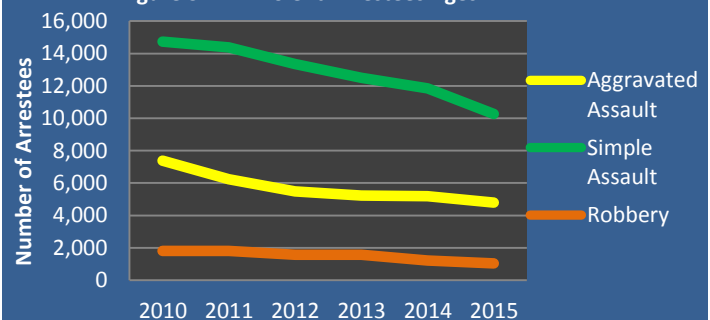
**Community Gang Problem:** Gangs located in Haverhill and Methuen participate in a variety of offenses including drug crimes, robberies, house break-ins, shots fired, and assaults. Within these two communities reside 16 confirmed gangs with 475 identified gang members. Gangs specific to Haverhill include: Gangster Disciples, Da Blok, Latin Kings, Outlaws, T>R>N and Trinitarios. Hotspots where these gangs are located include: Haverhill's Mt. Washington and Acre neighborhoods and Methuen's Arlington neighborhood (bordering Lawrence).

**Shannon Strategy:** In 2015, the Haverhill/Methuen Shannon CSI site received \$151,557 in Shannon CSI funds to implement a multidisciplinary, community-building approach to address youth violence and gang behavior. This initiative prevents gang involvement through the elimination of risk factors and the increase of protective factors. Collaboration and cross-training among program partners bolsters community assets and encourages positive relationships that spur pro-social development in youth. Increased communication between the police and MAN, Inc. has allowed for information sharing and improved relationships with local youth. Of particular focus is maintaining Shannon programmatic presence in the Acre, Mt. Washington, and Arlington neighborhoods. As Figure 2 shows, over the past five years of Shannon CSI funding, Haverhill/Methuen has experienced declines in youth and young adult arrests for aggravated assaults and simple assaults.

**Figure 2. Haverhill/Methuen Violent Arrestees Ages 14-24**



**Figure 3. MA Violent Arrestees Ages 14-24**



### Community Risk Factors

Each community receiving Shannon CSI funds must demonstrate a need for funding based on a high number of risk factors present in the community which perpetuates youth and gang violence. Close to 12% of Haverhill's population lives below the poverty line and nearly 40% of the student population is categorized as economically disadvantaged, as compared to 26.3% statewide. Haverhill's four year drop-out rate is 14%, almost three times the statewide average. Given these community level risk factors, the successful transition of many Haverhill/Methuen youth into adulthood is challenging compared to other non-disadvantaged communities.

Table 1. Haverhill/Methuen Risk Factors, 2015

	Haverhill	Methuen	State
<b>Poverty/ Unemployment</b>			
Poverty <sup>a</sup>	11.9%	8.5%	11.4%
Economically Disadvantaged <sup>b</sup>	38.1%	28.2%	26.3%
Unemployment rate	5.1%	5.1%	4.6%
<b>Education/ School Performance</b>			
Graduation rate	73.4%	86.6%	87.3%
Dropout rate	14.0%	5.3%	5.1%
ELL Students	7.3%	7.8%	8.5%
Suspension rate	4.7%	3.7%	2.9%
Bachelor's Degree (25+)	28.5%	29.2%	39.4%
<b>Total population (2014 estimate)</b>	62,488	49,112	6,745,408
<b>Total public school population (2014-2015)</b>	7,240	6,953	955,844

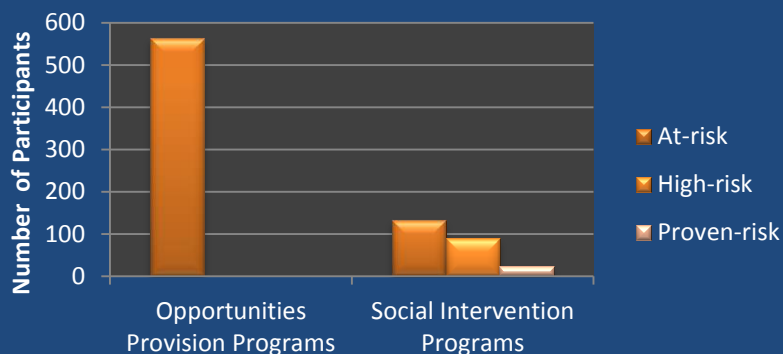
<sup>a</sup>As defined by the US Census Bureau

[www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html)

<sup>b</sup>As defined by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/ed.html>

Figure 4. Number and Risk Level of Haverhill/Methuen Shannon Participants by Comprehensive Gang Model Strategy Area



### Individual Risk Level Definitions

**At-risk youth** are in danger of engaging in risky behaviors because of the presence of risk factors in their environment (either home or community). These factors include but are not limited to: lack of healthy role models; poor community education outcomes; high rates of community substance abuse; high rates of community violence; and high unemployment and/or poverty rates.

**High-risk youth** are exposed to similar risk factors as at-risk youth, and are exposed to additional risk factors such as school failure or early school leaving; substance abuse; court involvement; witnessing violence; or violent victimization.

**Proven-risk youth** are identified as those youth being perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence.

### Overview: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comprehensive Gang Model

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Shannon Community Safety Initiative (CSI) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model (CGM). The CGM is a multi-sector approach to addressing a community's gang and youth violence problem. After completing a needs assessment, communities assemble a steering committee which uses data to develop strategies in the following five areas:

- **Social intervention programs** for gang involved and proven risk youth include street outreach and case management. These programs reach out and act as links to gang-involved youth, their families, and other traditional social service providers. For high risk youth and at-risk youth, social intervention programs can include drop-in recreation, positive youth development, and other mechanisms to reach young people and connect them to positive adults and constructive activities.
- **Suppression programs** include close supervision or monitoring of gang involved youth and other high impact players by police, prosecutors, probation officers, and other officers of the court. These programs include hotspot patrols, law enforcement home visits, ride-alongs, re-entry, and special prosecutors.
- **Opportunity provision programs** provide education, training, and employment programs for gang involved youth and young people at high risk for youth violence and gang involvement.
- **Organizational change** is the development and implementation of policies and procedures that result in the most effective use of available and potential resources, within and across agencies, to better address the gang problem.
- **Community mobilization** includes educating the community about gang and youth violence trends in their city or neighborhood and involving them in strategies to confront the problem.